

Message Text

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13

ACTION EA-14

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-07 H-03 INR-10 L-03

NSAE-00 NSC-10 PA-04 RSC-01 PRS-01 SPC-03 SS-20

USIA-15 OMB-01 EB-11 DRC-01 /105 W

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R 210620Z JAN 74

FM AMEMBASSY SINGAPORE
TO RUEHC/SECSTATE WASHDC 9912
INFO AMEMBASSY MANILA

UNCLAS SINGAPORE 0242

E.O. 11652: NA

TAGS: PFOR,SN

SUBJ: PM LEE'S COMMENTS ON US

REF: MANILA 0688

AS REPORTED IN STRAITS TIMES, LEE MADE FOLLOWING COMMENTS
OF INTEREST ON U.S. AT HIS JANUARY 17 PRESS CONFERENCE
IN MANILA:

A. U.S. INFLUENCE IN SEA - " FOR THE TIME BEING, WHAT WE
ARE WATCHING IS THE GRADUAL RUN-DOWN OF THE PREDOMINANT
AMERICAN PRESENCE THAT HAS PREVAILED OVER THE LAST DECADE
IN SOUTH-EAST ASIA."

A BALANCE MUST BE STRUCK BETWEEN A NUMBER OF
FACTORS, INCLUDING THE INTEREST WHICH JAPAN HAS IN FREE
PASSAGE THROUGH THESE WATERS TO THE GULF AND BACK,
ACCESS TO RAW MATERIALS, THE LEGITIMATE INTERESTS OF
CHINA IN COUNTRIES ADJACENT TO HER, ESPECIALLY ON THE
SOUTHER BORDERS, AND THE CONTINUING GLOBAL INTEREST OF
THE US IN ENSURING THAT NO MAJOR OR SUPERPOWER EXERCISES
AN OVERWHELMING POWER PRESSURE ON ANY SINGLE IMPORTANT
PART OF THE WORLD, WHICH INCLUDES SOUTH-EAST ASIA.

B. EFFECT OF WATERGATE ON AMERICAN WORLD LEADERSHIP.
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IN RESPONSE TO QUESTION WHETHER WATERGATE WOULD PUSH
AMERICA INTO ISOLATION, LEE REPLIED THAT HIS IMMEDIATE
CONCERN WAS THAT THE AMERICAN DOMESTIC PROBLEM HAD
WEAKENED THE COUNTRY'S CAPACITY TO REACT TO MORE THAN JUST
IMMEDIATE AND URGENT ISSUES LIKE THE MIDDLE EAST.
THERE WAS NOT THE SAME COMPREHENSIVE REACTION ON
ALL FRONTS, BOTH CRISIS AND NON-CRISIS, WHICH WOULD HAVE
BEEN THE CASE HAD THERE BEEN NO PROBLEMS ARISING OUT OF
WATERGATE.
CRONK

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: LAW OF THE SEA, RAW MATERIALS, PRESS CONFERENCES
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 21 JAN 1974
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: n/a
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: n/a
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment:
Disposition Date: 01 JAN 1960
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1974SINGAP00242
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Film Number: n/a
From: SINGAPORE
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1974/newtext/t19740127/aaaaazly.tel
Line Count: 71
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE
Office: ACTION EA
Original Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: n/a
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: MANILA 0688
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: shawdg
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 03 OCT 2002
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <03 OCT 2002 by MorefiRH>; APPROVED <20-Nov-2002 by shawdg>
Review Markings:

Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
30 JUN 2005

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: PM LEE'S COMMENTS ON US
TAGS: PFOR, SN
To: RUEHC/SECSTATE WASHDC 9912
Type: TE
Markings: Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 30 JUN 2005